

Serial No. 09/955,334  
Attorney Docket No. 011109  
Page 2

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A turret punch press comprising:

an upper turret supporting a plurality of punch tools;

a lower turret supporting a plurality of die tools corresponding to the punch tools,

the lower turret having a work sheet outlet positioned inside the lower turret; and

a punch driving mechanism operatively connected to the punch tools for driving the punch tools of the upper turret;

wherein a small article work sheet is cut off from a material work sheet which has been fed into the turret punch press in ~~the~~ a punch processing process so that the small article work sheet is located above the work sheet outlet in the lower turret and then is discharged through the work sheet outlet.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The turret punch press according to claim 1, wherein a chute is connected to the work sheet outlet ~~inside said lower turret supports of~~ said lower turret.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The turret punch press according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein an opening and closing plate, freely opening and closing, for covering said work sheet outlet, is employed in said lower turret so that an upper surface of the opening and closing plate, when said plate is closed, is approximately even in height with an upper surface of the lower turret.

Serial No. 09/955,334  
Attorney Docket No. 011109  
Page 3

Claim 4 (currently amended): A turret punch press comprising:

a main body frame supporting an upper turret and a lower turret;

the upper turret supporting a plurality of punch tools;

the lower turret, positioned below the upper turret, supporting a plurality of die tools corresponding to the punch tools, the lower turret having a work sheet outlet positioned inside the lower turret between ~~a plurality of punch tools~~ the plurality of die tools and the center of the lower turret; and

----- a punch driving mechanism operatively connected to the punch tools for driving the punch tools of the upper turret;

wherein a small article work sheet is cut off from a material work sheet which has been fed into the turret punch press in ~~the a punch processing process~~ a punch processing process so that the small article work sheet is located above the work sheet outlet in the lower turret and then is discharged through the work sheet outlet.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The turret punch press according to claim 4, wherein a chute is connected to the work sheet outlet ~~inside said lower turret is employed in the main body frame for supporting of~~ said lower turret.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The turret punch press according to claim 4, wherein an opening and closing plate, connected to an opening and closing drive source, covers an upper opening of the work sheet outlet.

Serial No. 09/955,334  
Attorney Docket No. 011109  
Page 4

U Claim 7 (previously presented): The turret punch press according to claim 6 wherein an upper surface of the opening and closing plate, when said plate is closed, is approximately even in height with an upper surface of the lower turret.